Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in

the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 37.   (cancelled)

Claim 38.   (currently amended)   A method of playing a game, comprising:

2   (a) beginning the game with a player's game piece operatively on a starting non-

absorbent point in a row of at least two non-absorbent points, said row

4   bounded on one end by a first absorbent point and on the other end by a

second absorbent point;

6   (b) ~~placing~~ receiving at least one wager that the game piece will be moved to the

first absorbent point before being moved to the second absorbent point;

8   (c) observing an event that dictates to which point the game piece must be

moved, wherein a first outcome of the observed event causes said dictated

10   point ~~selected from the points on either~~ to be on one side of the point on

which the game piece is currently operatively on, and wherein a second

12   outcome of the observed event causes the dictated point to be on the other

side of said current operative point;

14   (d) determining whether the dictated point is a non-absorbent point, the first

absorbent point, or the second absorbent point;

16   (e) moving the game piece to said dictated point and repeating at least steps (c)

and (d) if the dictated point is a non-absorbent point ~~regardless of whether or~~

18   ~~not the game piece ever previously occupied the dictated point~~;

(f) awarding the player the at least one wager if the dictated point is the first

20   absorbent point; and

(g) denying the player the at least one wager if the dictated point is the second

22   absorbent point.

Claim 39.   (previously added)   The method of claim 38 further comprising

2   calculating an inchoate cargo in relation to the player's wager if the dictated

point is a non-absorbent point.

Claim 40.   (previously added)   The method of claim 38 further comprising

2   selecting a starting non-absorbent point from more than one available starting

non-absorbent points.

Claim 41.   (previously added)   The method of claim 38 wherein the starting non-

2   absorbent point becomes a first or second absorbent point after the first move of

the game.

Claim 42.   (previously added)   The method of claim 38 wherein the observed

2   event involves one or more decks of cards, one or more dice, one or more

               coins, a roulette wheel, a sporting event, a horse race, a meteorological event,

4   or a computer.

Claim 43.   (currently amended)   A method of playing a game, comprising:

2   (a) beginning the game with a player's game piece operatively on a starting non-

                   absorbent point on a multi-dimensional game board comprising a plurality of

4   non-absorbent points surrounded by a plurality of absorbent points;

               (b) ~~placing~~ receiving at least one wager that the game piece will be moved to a

6   first absorbent point before being moved to a second absorbent point;

               (c) observing ~~an event~~ one or more events that dictates which adjacent point the

8   game piece must be moved to, said one or more events providing for at least

                   a first outcome and a second outcome, wherein the first outcome dictates a

10   first dictated adjacent point to which the game piece must be moved and the

                   second outcome dictates a second dictated adjacent point to which the game

12   piece must be moved, and wherein the first and second dictated adjacent

                   points are in generally opposite directions from the point on which the game

14   piece is currently operatively on;

               (d) determining whether said dictated adjacent point is a non-absorbent point, a

16   first absorbent point, or a second absorbent point;

(e) moving the game piece to said dictated adjacent point and repeating at least

18   steps (c) and (d) if said dictated adjacent point is a non-absorbent point

~~regardless of whether or not the game piece ever previously occupied the~~

20   ~~dictated adjacent point~~;

(f) awarding the player the at least one wager if said dictated adjacent point is a

22   first absorbent point; and

(g) denying the player the at least one wager if said dictated adjacent point is a

24   second absorbent point.

Claim 44.   (previously added)   The method of claim 43 wherein the observed

2   event involves a first dice and a second dice,

wherein half of the faces on the first dice dictate moving the game piece in a

4   first direction and the other half of the faces on the first dice dictate

moving the game piece in a second direction opposite said first direction,

6   wherein half of the faces on the second dice dictate moving the game piece

in a third direction and the other half of the faces on the second dice

8   dictate moving the game piece in a fourth direction opposite said third

direction.

Claim 45.   (previously added)   The method of claim 44 wherein the first direction

2   is oblique to said third direction.

Claim 46.   (previously added)   The method of claim 43 wherein the non-absorbent

points are oriented in a north, south, east, and west orientation to one another or

a northwest, northeast, southwest, or southeast orientation to one another;

Claim 47.   (previously added)   The method of claim 43 wherein one or more

absorbent points are interspersed among the non-absorbent points at

predetermined locations in addition to the plurality of absorbent points that

surround the non-absorbent points.

Claim 48.   (previously added)   The method of claim 43 further comprising

calculating an inchoate cargo in relation to the player's wager if the dictated

adjacent point is a non-absorbent point.

Claim 49.   (previously added)   The method of claim 43 the wager involves a

selection of a particular one or more first absorbent points from more than one

first absorbent points.

Claim 50.   (previously added)   The method of claim 43 wherein the wager

involves a selection of a particular one or more second absorbent points from

more than one second absorbent points.

Claim 51.   (currently amended)   A method of playing a game, comprising:

2   (a) ~~placing~~ receiving at least one wager that a game piece will be moved to a

first absorbent point before being moved to a second absorbent point, said

4   wager being placed while said game piece is on a non-absorbent point that is

adjacent to at least one other non-absorbent point;

6   (b) observing ~~an event~~ one or more events that dictates to which ~~adjacent~~ point

the game piece must be moved, said one or more events providing for at

8   least a first outcome and a second outcome, wherein the first outcome

dictates a first dictated point to which the game piece must be moved and the

10   second outcome dictates a second dictated point to which the game piece

must be moved, and wherein the first and second dictated points are in

12   generally opposite directions from the point where the game piece is

currently located;

14   (c) determining whether the point to which the game piece must be moved is a

non-absorbent point, a first absorbent point, or a second absorbent point;

16   (d) if the point to which the game piece must be moved is a non-absorbent point,

moving the game piece to said non-absorbent point ~~regardless of whether or~~

18   ~~not the game piece ever previously occupied the point to which the game~~

~~piece must be moved~~ and repeating at least steps (b) and (c);

20   (e) awarding the player the at least one wager if the point to which the game

piece must be moved is a first absorbent point; and

22 (f) denying the player the at least one wager if the point to which the game

piece must be moved is a second absorbent point.

Claim 52.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 further comprising

2   calculating an inchoate cargo in relation to the player's wager if the point to

which the game piece must be moved is a non-absorbent point.

Claim 53.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 further comprising

2   selecting a starting non-absorbent point from more than one available starting

non-absorbent points.

Claim 54.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 the wager involves a

2   selection of a particular one or more first absorbent points from more than one

first absorbent points.

Claim 55.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 the wager involves a

2   selection of a particular one or more second absorbent points from more than

one second absorbent points.

Claim 56.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 wherein the observed

2   event involves one or more decks of cards, one or more dice, one or more

coins, a roulette wheel, a sporting event, a horse race, a meteorological event,

or a computer.

Claim 57.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 wherein the wager is

selected from a group consisting of a sink bet, a safe bet, a sink-emperor bet, a

safe-emperor bet, an insurance bet, a wager based on duration, a place bet, a

wager that the game-piece will enter one or more given states prior to entering

one or more other states, and any combination thereof.

Claim 58.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 wherein the first absorbent

point corresponds to a safe point or a swim point and wherein the second

absorbent point corresponds to a sink point or an edge point.

Claim 59.   (previously added)   The method of claim 51 wherein the game is

played on a game board comprising one or more player stations, wherein each

player station comprises one or more betting areas.